

JUN 19 2001

Newsletter

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June
2001

Volume 50 Number 3



Administrator's

Note If you haven't already, dust off your after action reports from last year's fire season.

This fire season appears to be about six weeks ahead of schedule so time is running out to implement your lessons learned. Even without the fires, the drought will have a significant impact, forcing all of us to deal with issues we haven't had to face before. As with any hazard, the sooner we address and plan for it, the more prepared we will be. Drought is difficult to plan for, however, as it develops over a long period of time and the consequences may not be known until much later.

This is also the time of year we begin developing the training schedules for next fall and winter. Your input is extremely critical in determining a beneficial training schedule. We anticipate some

changes in schedules as new crises or priorities develop over the year.

We are excited about the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) an-

nual conference being held at Big Sky September 8-12th. We hope many of you will participate and take advantage of this conference being in Montana.

Enjoy the summer—hopefully we will have long periods of gentle rain to diminish the drought and fire danger.

Jim Greene
DES Administrator



*P*hotograph
Provided By:
Pat McKelvey

Project Impact at work in Lewis & Clark County. Here, a demonstration of the mitigation efforts underway in the Lime Kiln area.

Summer
Edition



STATE OF MONTANA



After last year, most of us are truly looking forward to a normal and relaxing summer. Even if you didn't directly work as a result of the fires, you were most likely affected by the many restrictions placed upon us. Although those extreme conditions continue to exist, we can only hope the situation won't escalate and keep us from enjoying yet another summer.

Aside from that, we have another great newsletter to share with you. I actually had to save some stuff for the next issue. Thanks for all the wonderful information you send me. Better information, better newsletters, better emergency managers!

Have a great summer!

Until Next Time!
Monique T. Lay
Newsletter Editor

Be positive!



From the Editor



NEMA Annual Conference

Dear Colleague:

It is my pleasure to host the NEMA 2001 Annual Conference in the great state of Montana. NEMA National Conferences continue to grow and attract emergency management professionals from all levels of government and industries across the nation. It is NEMA's goal to enhance and further the emergency management profession and NEMA Conferences are an important part of that effort. I invite you to join us in Big Sky, Montana, September 8-12, 2001 and share your ideas, vision and experience with other NEMA professionals.

Sincerely,
Jim Greene

For more information, visit the NEMA website at: www.nemaweb.org



Thank you to the following for contributing to this newsletter:
Jim Greene, Jens Bolstad, Steve Kuhl—NWS, Bill Thomas, Sheri Smith, Fred Naeher, Larry Akers, Pat McKelvey, Ed Wallace—Wyoming EMA, Deb Ranum, Norrn Parrent, Chris Floyd—ARC, Martha Smith, Homer Young, Paul Spengler, Wilma Puich, Joe McNeal, Richard Tickle, Ken Pekoc—DPHHS, Brian LaMoure—DPHHS, Christopher Adams—Colorado State University, and Bill Silverman.

The Future of



As many of you will agree, and as many of our counterparts around this great nation will agree, Project Impact is one of the best programs to come out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In the past four years it has brought 1.5 million dollars into Montana for Mitigation projects. This money, in the spirit of partnership leveraging, has equated to a conservative expenditure of over 3 million dollars worth of work from stream diversions to making our schools safer.

By this time each spring I would have concluded advertising the upcoming program and would be nearly finished with applicant briefings. The perspective communities would be busily working on their applications. This year this is not the case. There are no advertisements, no applicant briefings and what is even more sad, there may be no future Montana Project Impact Communities. Project Impact for FY-2002, as a budget line item, was cut after the new administration took office in Washington D. C.

Stay tuned folks. FEMA, NEMA and other powerful lobby groups have managed to get the Fire Mitigation Program, which was also cut, back into the budget. It is possible with Congressional help and other support that Project Impact could be replaced.

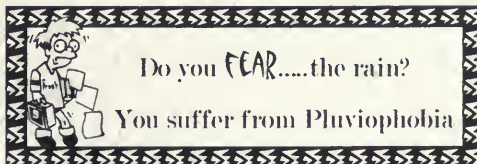
As an interesting aside, in the new Stafford Act Amendments, there is a program called "Pre Disaster Mitigation". It sounds very like Project Impact and some say it is intended to replace Project Im-

pact. It gives \$500,000 to each state for disaster resistant communities. The problem here is that it is also unfunded for FY-2002.

My read on this whole thing is, we should be ready to react quickly in case Congress restores Project Impact or the new Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program is funded. It is very possible that FEMA would ask the states for their nominations with very little notice. What we normally allow four to six months for could be reduced drastically. As of this date there has been no mention of what the acceptance criteria for either program might be.

If you are interested, give me a call as I still have some of last years applications and program requirements. I could send them and you could possibly have a head start in case this thing becomes a go.

Prepared by:
Larry Akers
Hazard Mitigation Officer



FROM TORNADOES TO FLOODS CUSTER COUNTY IS STORMREADY

On February 21, residents of Custer County, Mont. learned how the public and private sectors are teaming together to make their communities and residents better prepared to handle weather-related events or disasters in the future.

NOAA's National Weather Service and officials from Custer County today unveiled a plaque designating the county as "Storm Ready." The new national program gives communities the skills and education needed to survive severe weather - before and during the event. Storm Ready helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen their local hazardous weather operations.

"Custer County, including the incorporated cities of Miles City and Ismay, was designated as 'Storm Ready' on February 5 by the south central/south eastern Montana Storm Ready Advisory Board," said Steve Kuhl, warning coordination meteorologist at the NWS Forecast Office in Billings. "The board is made up of the Custer County Disaster and Emergency Services, a representative from the State of Montana Department of Disaster and Emergency Services, and the NWS."

The Storm Ready program is voluntary, and provides communities with clear-cut advice from a partnership with the local National Weather Service office, as well as state and local emergency managers. The preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather threats from tornadoes to tsunamis.

Keith Meier, NWS Billings meteorologist in charge, presented a Storm Ready recognition letter and special Storm Ready road signs to Jim Zabrocki, coordinator, Custer County Disaster and Emergency Services. The signs will be placed at entrances to Miles City.

Storm Ready focuses on communication and community preparedness to save lives. Custer County is the fourth Montana location to be recognized for its disaster preparedness and severe weather educational activities.

National Weather Service statistics indicate nearly 350 tornadoes have killed three people and damaged numerous communities throughout Montana since 1950.

"These tornadoes have resulted in close to \$130,000 in crop damage and nearly \$41 million in property damage. Additionally, there have been more than 1,600 high winds and severe thunderstorm events documented across the state during this same time," said Kuhl. "It is very important for everyone to understand that flooding, wildland fires and other weather-related events can be a threat to those who live, work or play in our area. You not only should know what conditions bring on these weather events, but what to do when they occur."

"The Storm Ready program shows great promise and we hope it will continue to grow across the West," said Vickie Nadolski, director of the NWS Western Region headquartered in Salt Lake City. "Storm Ready helps communities attain a new level of preparedness and mitigation awareness that leads to protection of life and property from extreme weather-related events."

Zabrocki added his endorsement of the Storm Ready program. "Through the use of the NWS' NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts, we can help save lives during severe weather. These programs are another great example of the federal, state and local agencies helping local emergency managers have a more significant impact on their community."

Kuhl said, "It's paramount for communities to understand the types of weather-related threats in the area, when they are most likely to occur, and prepare in advance for severe weather events. For example, the peak threat for tornadoes in Montana occurs during spring and summer yet most flooding occurs during the fall and winter. Under the auspices of Storm Ready, the National Weather Service will continue to help our citizens understand the dangers these weather events present. Education is a very big part of the Storm Ready program," Kuhl said.

(Continued on page 5)



Miles City StormReady Presentation Ceremony:

Jim Zabrocki, Director, Custer County Disaster and Emergency Services, holds a newly presented StormReady Road Sign at the Custer County Commissioners Meeting in Miles City on February 21, 2001. This sign was presented by the Billings National Weather Service in recognition of Custer County being designated StormReady.

Standing left to right are: Keith Meier, NWS Billings Meteorologist-In-Charge, Duane Mathison, Custer County Commissioner, Steve Kuhl, NWS Billings Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Jim Zabrocki, Janet Kelly, Custer County Commissioner, and Dan Connors, Chairman, Custer County Commissioners.

Also attending the ceremony (not pictured) were Norm Parrent, State DES District IV Representative, and Meredith Hirsch of the Custer County Health Department.

(Continued from page 4)

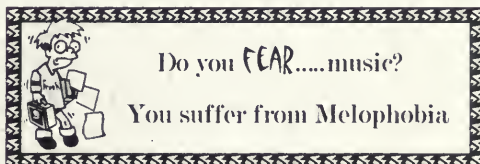
Storm Ready will also strengthen a community's ability to receive and use severe weather watches and warnings from the National Weather Service.

NOAA Weather Radios with alarms are the surest way to keep your family informed of hazardous weather," Kuhl said. "We encourage everyone to equip their homes, schools, businesses and public places with this lifesaving device. NOAA Weather Radios should be as common as smoke detectors. While 85 to 95 percent of Americans can receive NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts, only five to 10 percent of Americans own a NOAA Weather Radio. Across Montana, there are currently 15 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters covering large population centers with one located right in Miles City."

Zabrocki said, "While Storm Ready is designed to prepare communities, the actions of an individual often mean the difference between life and death. Just like communities, families and individuals need to be ready by having an action plan for severe weather events."

Contributed by:

Steve Kuhl
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service, Billings



Information on FEMA's web site.

FEMA

P.A.S.S. - Partners Assuring Safer Schools

<http://www.fema.gov/Reg-VIII/PASS/PASSmain.htm>

FEMA's effort to spotlight Region VIII states' commitment to better prepared schools. Montana was the first state to have its efforts highlighted.

<http://www.fema.gov/Reg-VIII/PASS/mtschool.htm>

Some great info here as well: <http://www.fema.gov/Reg-VIII/index.htm>

FEMA Field Tests New School Safety Technology.

<http://www.fema.gov/reg-VIII/pips.htm>



Ed Wallace, Wyoming Emergency Management sent in the following information regarding the last issue of the newsletter.

"On page 31 [March 2001 Edition] is a box listing the Independent Insurance Agents of America Project MAP. I called the toll free telephone number and learned there is a charge to receive the Project MAP material."

However, you can down load Project MAP (family guide for creating and implementing disaster plans) from www.iaa.org."

Thanks, Ed

Reprinted from:

The Connection

America's Bridge to Preparedness

Spring 2001 Volume 3 Number 1

Montana School Resource Committee

Wilma Puich

Emergency Manager

Butte Silver Bow, Montana

In Montana the Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators has established a School Disaster Resource Committee (SDRC). This Committee, that meets quarterly, provides resources in the form of planning guidance, state and national school safety publications, and presentations to school associations and local School Boards. If schools need help in disaster planning they need just ask.

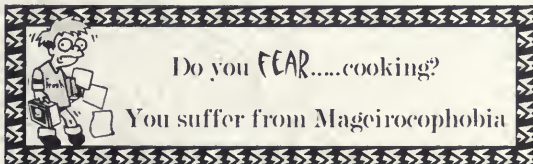
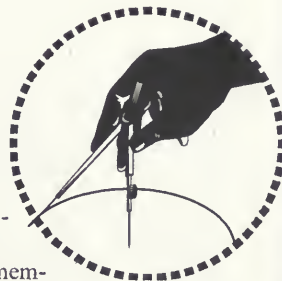
The primary goal of the SDRC is to eventually get legislation adopted that will mandate All Hazard School planning in every school in the state. In the meantime they are now working on establishing a Safe School Checklist, and addressing the power situation to include school closures, parental release policies, and identifying resources.

The committee is composed of representation from Disaster & Emergency Services, Montana School Board Association, Mon-

tana Office of Public Instruction, Parent Teachers Association and the Montana Fire Marshal's Office. Additional membership will soon be addressed.

The committee is now distributing to all schools in Montana a recently completed All-Hazards Procedures Checklist. The checklist is a flip chart to be used in classrooms or public areas in each school building.

It seems that almost monthly a new threat appears on the horizon for us to address. Despite our efforts to be on top of these threats we know they will continue to impact our schools. We, in emergency management and school administration must continue to mitigate and plan to insure a coordinated response to protect our schools and their precious contents.



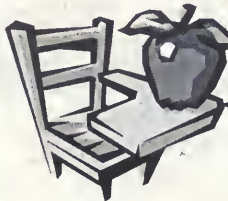
School Planning Montana Style

The State of Montana is acutely aware that it is necessary to address the issue of school planning. Hazards abound in our state - from earthquakes, fires and floods, to HazMat, terrorism, and school violence - the risk is high and our schools are vulnerable. Although emergency managers throughout the state are working diligently with their schools, it became obvious that some consistency in these efforts was critical if there were to be a positive impact. To promote this consistency and provide resources to our communities, the School Disaster Preparedness Resource Committee was established in 1999.

The goal of the committee is to provide a knowledgeable point of contact with experienced personnel that can assist a school district in all hazard emergency preparedness planning. This resource will be a clearinghouse for information and resources concerning plans and the school planning process.

Although the committee is relatively new, the focus and intent are clear, and the direction is precise and gaining momentum.

Here is a synopsis of some of the things we have done throughout the state to better prepare our schools for disaster.



*All Hazards Safe Schools Program - (developed by Butte/Silver Bow DES) Utilized by the school districts and adopted by 18 schools. Other counties which participate in this program include: Powell, Anaconda/Deer Lodge, Teton and Carbon.



*Training has been a top priority - from interested individuals to the team training concept, Montana has done its best to take advantage of every training opportunity available outside the state and to introduce new training within our borders.

*DES Administrator serves on the School Safety Committee for the National Emergency Management Association

*State DES Programs, in conjunction with the county emergency managers, conduct onsite presentations within the schools to discuss the four phases of emergency management and the responsibilities they have for their students and schools.

Drafting and developing school audit guidelines. The primary purpose of a Safe School Audit is to help each school conduct a comprehensive review of the learning, organizational and

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

physical environments that are the education foundation of our schools. Use of the Audit process will increase awareness of safe school practices, provide data for making informed decisions, and promote conversations among school and community members. It is a power full tool for working towards safe, disciplined, and drug-free schools.

There are several types of safe school audits:

- 1) Meeting OSHA Standards
- 2) Social/Cultural Environment
- 3) General School Safety
- 4) Medical procedures for heart at tacks, suicide, diabetic comas, etc.
- 5) Disaster Preparedness

The audit checklists may be consolidated into one document or kept separate.

Two of our biggest goals were to:

- 1) pass legislation requiring schools to have plans in place, and
- 2) hire an individual full time to address the many needs of these schools.

[Until more support is gained for legislation and finances are allocated, both of those efforts are on hold.]

A few points regarding our involvement with schools:

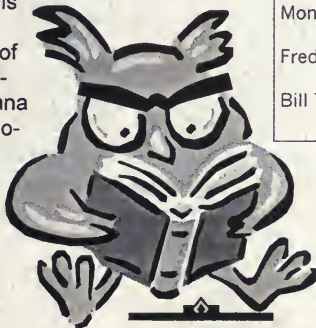
Montana DES sponsors the All Hazard Emergency Planning Resource Committee for Schools. This committee is comprised of members of OPI, State Fire Marshal's Office, Montana School Board's Association, Rural

School's Association, DES Association and DES. The Montana Parent/Teacher's Association is indirectly involved and is kept informed of our activities. We offer free assistance to schools through the county emergency managers and state DES staff. We can assist the schools by conducting onsite training sessions, hazard analysis, exercises (drills) and act as central clearinghouse for the exchange of information. We do this under the direction of House Bill 183 which says we will offer free technical assistance and MCA 20-1-401 (Identify disaster risks within school boundaries), 20-1-402 (Number of drills), 20-USC Chapter 20 (Gun-Free Schools) and the Montana Safety Culture Act.

We have established a partnership with the Montana Behavioral Initiative, a project being managed by the Office of Public Instruction. One of their projects is to help the schools establish all-hazard emergency plans and to establish contacts with the emergency management community. That is where DES and the Resource Committee comes into focus. This summer, DES is co-sponsoring with MBI a week long conference in Bozeman. The track being co-sponsored is the Emergency Planning for Schools session.

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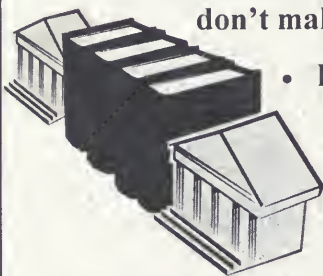


To Avoid Liability....

In order for local emergency managers to avoid liability within their jurisdiction, Brad Belke, Attorney-at-Law, shared these points at the DES 2001 Governor's Conference in February:



- have a disaster preparedness committee
- have an up-to-date hazard analysis and risk assessment
- document
- comply with MCA Title 10
- Train
 - (only respond within level of competence)
- be sure the emergency operations plan is realistic – don't make promises



- let the community know what you're doing

Provided by:
Bill Thomas
DES District IV Rep

County Maps are available online (pdf format)

<http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/scripts/planning/mapping/countymaps.pl>

click "ok" when you get the password request



THE RATTLE IN SEATTLE

© 2001 by Gaelic Wolf Consulting, Inc.



The smooth curves you see to the outside of the Earthquake Rose are what you normally see when someone sets the pendulum in motion to make a tracing...and without seismic assistance.

On February 28, 2001, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake, located some thirty miles below the surface of the earth and a few miles away from Olympia, Washington, moved the ground for a bit more than half a minute. Damage was surprisingly light, due, in part, to structural retrofitting throughout the region, and also to the epicenter's depth.

A sand tracing pendulum, located at a shop in Port Townsend called Mind Over Matter, produced some very interesting patterns. Those of us who have done disaster relief work after major earthquakes don't often think of them as having an artistic bent, but the tracings the pendulum made during this quake demonstrate that they can be rather creative when they have an appropriate tool at hand!

Here is one of the photos taken shortly after the ground stopped moving:



For more detail visit: <http://www.gaelicwolf.com/pendulum.html>

This happy coincidence made what many people are describing as an eye...some even saying that it looks like Poseidon's eye...do you remember that he was the god of earthquakes as well as the sea?

The earthquake's handiwork is the design in the center. While its tracery makes up the pupil of the eye, it also strongly resembles a rose, which inspired us to call it the Earthquake Rose.

According to one of the geophysicists we sent the photos to, "The images are quite esthetically pleasing. I had not thought about the possibility of creating art in this way." Our own impression is that there's something amazing about how such a massive and very destructive release of energy can also contain such delicate artistry within its chaos.

"The sand preserves two features of the earthquake waves quite nicely," according to our geophysicist correspondent. The motions caused by the earthquake moving the pendulum's base started small, and the initial tracings were overwritten as the strength of the ground's motion increased. Of course, once everything started to slow down after the shaking stopped, the pendulum slowed to a stop, gradually "writing" the pattern in tighter circles as it moved back to its natural center. If you look at it closely, you'll see that the pendulum was apparently centering in one spot, and then moved a final time to come to rest in a slightly different location. As a result, we're thinking that there may have been a bit of last minute settling in the ground, prompting a check of the building by an engineer.

Information Provided by:
Martha Smith
Sanders County OEM

Announcing...

DEAF/HEARING IMPAIRED KIT FOR PEOPLE WITH "SPECIAL NEEDS"

Burlington, N.C., Feb. 19, 2000 - Regional Weather Alert radios announces a Deaf/Hearing Impaired kit for NOAA weather radios that allows people with "special needs" to be alerted to possible or imminent danger. The kit is designed to work with most models of weather alert radios sold today.



Regional Weather Alert Radios in partnership with Homesafe Inc., AccuWeather.com, and www.aprweather.com provides information needed to prepare for a disaster BEFORE it happens. Regional Weather Alert Radios provides the warnings that timely alerts people to be prepared, seek shelter or evacuate if disaster is imminent.

Information is provided on what to do DURING and AFTER a disaster has struck.

Richard Tickle, owner of Regional Weather Alert Radios states, "We are happy to announce these Deaf/Hearing Impaired kits that will allow people with "Special Needs" to be alerted."



For additional INFO contact:

Richard Tickle

Regional Weather Alert Radios

Tollfree: 800 484-1087 Ext. 7714

E-mail: rick@radiowarning.com

www.radiowarning.com

A Message From EMI:



All of the remaining IEMC vacancies for our classes for the year have now been posted on the IEMC web site http://www.fema.gov/emi/2nd_open_enroll.htm

Vacancies will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

Interesting Web Site

Consumerworld.org



Consumer World is a public service, non-commercial guide cataloging over 2000 of the most useful consumer resources. From dealing with telemarketers to comparison shopping, this site provides some useful information.

Schools Get Tough On Fraud Claims



Tennessee -- Knox County Schools had earned a reputation as a gravy train for questionable workers' compensation claims and racked up one of the worst loss histories in the Tennessee School Boards' Association risk pool.

To view the full article, please visit the URL:

<http://www.FraudNews.com/ItemView.cfm?id=2085>

Did you know? The Fraud Defense Network offers the free Daily News service. This service emails the latest Fraud News headlines like the one above directly to your inbox every morning. Sign up for free at <http://www.fraudnews.com/dailynews/>

Other Fraud News Headlines:

Frankel Associate Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy

<http://www.FraudNews.com/ItemView.cfm?id=2084>

Internet-Driven Fraud On The Rise World Over

<http://www.FraudNews.com/ItemView.cfm?id=2086>

Schools Get Tough On Fraud Claims

<http://www.FraudNews.com/ItemView.cfm?id=2085>

Fraud Causing N.Y. Auto Insurance Rates To Soar To No. 1

<http://www.FraudNews.com/ItemView.cfm?id=2083>

Fraud Case Leads To Sale Of Car Fleet

<http://www.FraudNews.com/ItemView.cfm?id=2080>

Visit <http://www.FraudNews.com> for more fraud related articles.



Something you should know...

The one dollar bill explained

Take out a one dollar bill (older version) and look at it. The one dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know.

It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look. If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance - a balanced budget.

In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, and ancient symbol for divinity.

It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun."

At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776. If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it

carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England.

Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away.

Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace.

The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows. They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But, think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows.

And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

"Did you know this?"



Submitted by:
Joe McNeal

Fast Facts About METH

Methamphetamines are synthetic amphetamines or stimulants that are produced and sold illegally in pillform, capsules, powder and chunks. An amphetamine is a chemical that has stimulant properties similar to adrenaline. Like adrenaline, methamphetamines stimulate the central nervous system, and are extremely addictive. After the effects of meth wears off, it can cause severe withdrawal that is more intense and longer lasting than both speed and cocaine. Methamphetamines may be known as meth, crank, glass, speed, crystal, ice, batu, chalk, shabu, or zip. Other facts about meth:



Fact: Methamphetamine use among high school seniors more than doubled between 1990 & 1996.

Fact: Women are more likely to use meth than cocaine.

Fact: The average meth "cook" annually teaches ten others how to make meth.

Fact: Every pound of meth produced leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste.

Fact: Seizures of clandestine meth labs in the Midwest increased ten-fold from 1995 to 1997.

Fact: DEA has identified 20 Mexican meth trafficking organizations in the Midwest.

Fact: Methamphetamine accounts for up to 90 percent of all drug cases in many Midwest communities.

Fact: Methamphetamine kills by causing heart failure, brain damage and stroke.

Fact: Methamphetamine-induced paranoia has led to numerous murders and suicides.

Fact: Methamphetamine produces hallucinations.

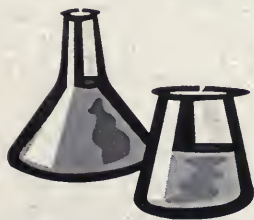
Fact: Meth users are the hardest to treat of all drug users.

Fact: Meth lab site cleanups can cost up to \$150,000.

Fact: Methamphetamine is highly addictive.

Fact: Meth use increases risk of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence.

Information provide by the Midwest HIDTA



http://www.kci.org/meth_info/links.htm



If a hurricane, winter storm or other disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water and electricity for days, even weeks. We all know that water is a survival priority and by taking time now to store an emergency supply, you can provide for your entire family in a disaster situation.

You must have an ample supply of clean water - at least one gallon per person per day. You should store at minimum a two week supply for each member of your family. You will need this water for drinking, food preparation and hygiene. Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. Seal water containers tightly, label them, and store in a cool, dark place. Rotate water every six months.

If for some reason disaster catches you without a stored supply of clean water, you can use the water in your pipes, hot-water tank, and ice cubes. As a last resort, you can use water in the reservoir tank of your toilet (not the bowl). To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your house at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the house. To use the water in your hot-water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is off, and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning off the water intake valve and turning on a hot-water faucet. Do not turn on the gas or electricity when the tank is empty.

You can find water outside your home from the following sources: rainwater; streams, rivers, and other moving bodies of water; ponds and lakes; and natural springs. This water must be purified before drinking it. Avoid water with floating material, an odor or dark color. Use saltwater only if you distill it. You should not drink flood water.

Water in an Emergency

How to Purify Water

You should purify all water of uncertain purity before using it for drinking, food preparation or hygiene. There are many ways to purify water. None is perfect. Often the best solution is a combination of methods. Boiling and disinfecting are two methods which will kill most microbes in water. Distillation is a more thorough method as it removes the microbes that resist boiling and disinfecting. It also removes heavy metals, salts, and most other chemicals.

Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3-5 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. Let the water cool before drinking. Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers. This will also improve the taste of stored water.

Disinfecting involves using household liquid bleach to kill microorganisms. Use only regular household liquid bleach that contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented bleaches, color-safe bleaches or bleaches with added cleaners. Add 16 drops of bleach per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. If the water does not have a slight bleach odor, repeat the dosage and let stand another 15 minutes. Again, the only agent used to purify water should be household liquid bleach. Other chemicals, such as iodine or water treatment products sold in camping or surplus stores that do not contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite as the only active ingredient, are not recommended and should not be used.

(Continued on page 17)

Experts: Plague could be bio-terror attack

By CLAUDE SALHANI

As the number of animals in Britain facing slaughter passes the one million mark, United Press International presents an in-depth, multi-part survey on the causes and likely implications of the epidemic, the worst disaster to hit British agriculture in modern times. Here, analyst Claude Salhani, an experienced expert on international terrorism, finds that respected authorities take very seriously the possibility that the epidemic could be the deliberate result of a

bio-terrorist attack on Britain and that such an attack could be a "dry run" for an even more devastating future bio-terror assault on the \$1 trillion U.S. agricultural industry. (see the inserted UPI news article.)



Submitted by:
Sheri Smith
Terrorism Coordinator

Traveling? These could help...

www.mapquest.com—Use this site to plan your route. It provides detailed driving instructions, including mileage between checkpoints, and a map. Enter your starting point and your destination.

www.travlang.com/languages—Helps you get familiar with the lingo by providing useful

expressions in dozens of different languages. This site also includes sound files so you hear the words pronounced.

www.cdc.gov/travel—This site provides you with health information for specific regions, recent disease outbreaks, and advice for travelers with special needs. A great resource to help you stay healthy abroad.

(Continued from page 16)

Distillation involves boiling water and then collecting the vapor that condenses back to water. The condensed vapor will not include salt and other impurities. To distill, fill a pot halfway with water. Tie a cup to the handle on the pot's lid so that the cup will hang right-side-up when the lid is upside-down (make sure the cup is not dangling into the water) and boil the water for 20 minutes. The water that drips from the lid into the cup is distilled.

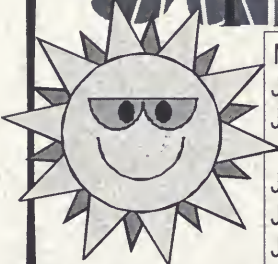
If supplies run low, never ration water. Drink the amount you need today, and try to find more for tomorrow. You can minimize the amount of water your body needs by reducing activity and staying cool.



Chris Floyd
American Red Cross

<http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/news/newletters.htm>

SUMMER HOLIDAYS!



May 28.....	Memorial Day
June 5.....	World Environment Day
June 14.....	Flag Day
June 17.....	Father's Day
June 21.....	Summer Solstice
June 28.....	World War I Day
July 1.....	Anniversary of the IRS
July 4.....	Independence Day
July 11.....	World Population Day
July 20.....	Moon Day (1st landing on the moon -1969)
August 4.....	Coast Guard Day
August 5.....	Atomic Bomb Day
August 12.....	Family Day
August 13.....	International Left Hander's Day
August 19.....	National Aviation Day
August 26.....	Women's Equality Day



& other special days

For a daily situation report on fires, visit:

<http://www.nifc.gov/news/nicc.html>

Check out:

<http://www.firerescueonline.com>

New and upgraded fire rescue website!!

For info on ERMA:

**Emergency
Resource
Management
Application**

www.emconcepts.net

Summer begins... *June*

Visit the National Hazard Mitigation
Officer website at:

<http://www.hazmit.net/index.htm>



County Updates

Broadwater County:

New Emergency Manager: James E. Langsather
P.O. Box 638
Townsend, MT 59644-0506
Office Number: (406) 266-9250
Cell Number: (406) 949-0117
Fax Number: (406) 266-3762

Glacier County:

New FAX Number: (406) 873-5859

Lincoln County:

New Emergency Manager: Randy Sutton
Office & EOC Number: (406) 293-6295

Missoula County:

New Emergency Manager: Jane Ellis
Office Number: (406) 523-4758

Pondera County:

New Prefixes: Change from 278 to - 271 -

Ravalli County:

New Emergency Manager: Greg Chilcott
Office Number: (406) 375-6282

New at DES...

Frank Priete has
joined the State DES
Staff as the new Haz-
ard Mitigation Grant
Program Manager.

e-mail Updates:

Broadwater County

James Langsather.....chiefus@msn.com

Fergus County

Tootie Marks des@co.fergus.mt

Pondera County

Clete Gregory cgregory@3rivers.net

LOCAL MITIGATION PLANS CALLED FOR IN THE FUTURE

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, signed into law October, 2000, contains several sections, taken together, that provide for a new approach to mitigation planning. Section 322 of the Act is the section that focuses specifically on mitigation planning.

This Section:

- Establishes a new requirement for local and tribal mitigation plans as a condition of receiving a HMGP project grant;
- Authorizes up to 7% of the HMGP funds available to a State to be used for development of State, local and tribal mitigation plans; and
- Provides for States to receive an increased percentage of HMGP funds (20%) if, at the time of the declaration of a major disaster, they have in effect a FEMA – approved State Mitigation Plan enhanced to meet new criteria.

States must have an approved HMGP Plan to qualify for the standard 15% HMGP allocation. Montana's plan is currently under revision by Mr. Frank Preite and myself. We hope to have it finished by the 4th quarter of FY-2001.

Pre disaster identification of local mitigation projects is critical to ensure a comprehensive, integrated approach to hazard reduction. The new legislation requires local planning processes to (1) describe actions to mitigate hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities identified under the plan; and (2) establish a strategy to implement those actions. Finally



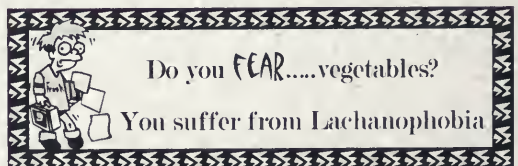
the legislation provides factors for FEMA to consider in deciding when States receive the increased 20% amounts of HMGP funds.

Further investigation has revealed that FEMA plans to phase in the local plan requirement over the next three years. Therefore, it is important to remember that until October, 2003 local and tribal governments may continue to apply for and receive HMGP funds if they agree to prepare a mitigation plan and submit it for approval within one year of the award of the grant.

Currently, I know of only two local mitigation plans in Montana and they will probably need a revision. In order to assist in preparation of local mitigation plans, this office is in the process of developing a "boiler plate" local mitigation plan that can be used by each jurisdiction to prepare their plan. In conversation with FEMA personnel, it may even be possible for adjoining counties to partner and develop a single plan.

Once the boiler plate is developed, we will conduct a two day training session for those who are tasked to develop their local plan. This training will be scheduled in FY-2002. We have copies of FEMA's local plan criteria in case any of you want to be proactive and begin development of your plan now. More to follow in the upcoming months.

Prepared by;
Larry Akers
Montana Hazard Mitigation Officer



Major Chemical Emergencies

A major chemical emergency is an accident which releases a hazardous amount of a chemical into the environment. Accidents can happen underground, on railroad tracks or highways and at manufacturing plants. These accidents sometimes result in a fire or explosion, but many times you cannot see or smell anything unusual.

In the event of a major chemical emergency, you will be notified by authorities. To get your attention, a siren could sound, you may be called by telephone, or emergency personnel may drive by and give instructions over a loudspeaker. Officials may come to your door. Listen carefully to radio or television and strictly follow instructions. You will be told the type of health hazard, the area affected, how to protect yourself, evacuation routes (if necessary), shelter locations, type and location of medical facilities, and the phone numbers to call if you need extra help. Do not call the telephone company, and do not call 911, or the operator for information. Dial these numbers *only* for a possible life threatening emergency.

One of the basic instructions you may be given in a chemical emergency is to *shelter-in-place*. This is a precaution aimed to keep you and your family safe while remaining in your home. If you are told to shelter-in-place, take your children and pets indoors immediately. While gathering your family, you can provide a minimal amount of protection to your breathing by covering your mouth and nose with a damp cloth. Take the following precautions...

- Close all windows in your home.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning.
- Closet the fireplace damper.
- Go to an above ground room (not the basement) with the fewest windows and doors.
- Take your Family Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Wet some towels and jam them in the crack under the doors. Tape around doors, windows, exhaust fans or vents. Use plastic garbage bags to cover windows, outlets and heat registers.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds or curtains. To avoid injury, stay away from the windows.
- Stay in the room and listen to your radio until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

Authorities may decide to evacuate an area for your protection. Again, it is important to stay calm, listen carefully and follow all instructions. If you are told to evacuate, listen to your radio to make sure the evacuation order applies to you and to understand if you are to evacuate immediately or if you have time to pack some essentials. Do not use your telephone.

If you are told to evacuate *immediately*:

- Take your Family Disaster Supplies Kit and medications.
- Close and lock your windows.
- Shut off all vents.
- Lock the door.
- Move quickly and calmly.



If the authorities tell you to evacuate because of a *possible chemical emergency*, take your Family Disaster Supplies Kit and pack:

- A change of clothing for each family member
- Medication, eyeglasses, hearing aids or dentures, or things like canes and walkers
- Personal items - toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.
- Items for your baby—diapers, formula etc.
- Books, puzzles, cards & games for entertainment

Do not assume that a shelter will have everything you need. In most cases the shelters will provide only emergency items such as meals, cots and blankets.

You don't need to turn off your refrigerator or freezer, but you should turn off all other appliances and lights before locking your home as you leave. Check on neighbors to make sure they have been notified, and offer help to those with disabilities or other special needs. If you need a ride, ask a neighbor. If no neighbor is available to help you, listen to the emergency broadcast station for further instructions.

Take only one car to the evacuation site. Close your car windows and air vents and turn off the heater or air conditioner. Don't take shortcuts because a shortcut may put you in the path of danger. For your safety, follow the exact route you are told to take.

Submitted By: Chris Floyd
Disaster Services Director
Capital Area Chapter
American Red Cross

Check this out! Utilizing data from Lewis & Clark County, Jens plotted the 1000 foot safety zones for various schools and put them on the web for your convenience. A great planning tool and it really makes you think.

This one is scary: see how the zones intersect!

You can find it at:



Provided by: Jens Bolstad, DES GIS Czar

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/thumbnails.html>



On Thursday, April 19th, Butte Silver Bow Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator Wilma Puich hosted a Meth Lab Awareness

Workshop for Emergency Responders. Wilma

states, "that Meth labs pose a real hazard to all first responders if they walk into a lab not knowing what is there". She further states "all first responders need to know just how very dangerous these chemicals are but more importantly just how dangerous the "cookers", who in most cases are users as well, really are." They often possess guns, booby trap the lab and become very violent if confronted.

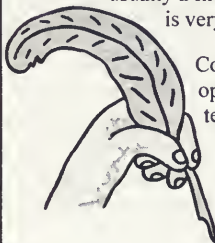
Meth Lab Awareness Workshop

Meth Labs are becoming a real problem in Western Montana with the problem now spreading east. In 2000, 39 labs were taken down in Sanders County. So far this year, 12 labs have been busted. These labs are hazardous waste sites and can cause serious health problems even if exposed to them for just a few minutes.

Responders include law, fire, medical, probation, health & human services employees, school personnel, and everyone who may have a reason to visit a home. The 111 students representing all of the above attended Butte Workshop.

Instructors for the daylong course were Steve Hester, Montana State Fire Training School, Deputy Darrell Chenoweth, Martha Smith and Officer Shawna Reinschmidt from Sanders County and Ray Malley, Drug Task Force Department of Justice. All instructors agreed that the key to successfully handling clandestine drug labs are cooperation and coordination between all agencies. HazMat is usually a fire incident however a meth lab becomes a law incident immediately. Medical is very involved because of the nature of the incident.

Continuing Education for OPI, EMS and Post was offered. Wilma also developed a handout brochure and is willing to share all information with anyone interested.



Submitted by:
Wilma Puich
Butte/Silver Bow County DES

When planning....

P

Photograph
Provided By:
Brian LaMoure
DPHHS



.....don't forget your secondary hazards!

Natural Disaster Information Cards

Find them at:

<http://fcgov.com/oem/ndic.php>



The Natural Disaster Information Cards were developed in partnership with Fort Collins OEM, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), FEMA Project IMPACT, and Colorado State University. They are designed to be an aid to emergency 911 dispatchers in handling calls during a disaster. In addition to the cards on the WWW, NOAA through its on-line training program VISIT is providing free web-based training on the use and application of the NDIC for state and local dispatchers. <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ndic.html> Several states and local jurisdictions have already taken the short course. For further information contact John Weaver, a NOAA scientist here at CIRA at (970) 491-8342 or weaver@cira.colostate.edu.

Christopher R. Adams, Ph.D.
Research Scientist and Co-Director
The Flash Flood Laboratory
Colorado State University

A few thoughts....

- I can only please one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow is not looking good either.
- I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
- Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
- Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue.
- Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time, chances are you won't be needing him again.
- I don't have an attitude problem, you have a perception problem.
- Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky, and thought to myself, where the heck is the ceiling?
- My reality check bounced.
- On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.
- I don't suffer from stress. I am a carrier.
- You are slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.
- Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons, because you are crunchy and taste good with ketchup.
- Everybody is somebody else's weirdo.
- Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.
- Don't be irreplaceable - if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.
- The more crud you put up with, the more crud you are going to get.
- You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.
- Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.
- People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.
- If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
- When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the behind.



Out & About

Photograph
Provided By:
Bill Thomas

What's happening?! Emergency Management in Montana.



March 4, 2001 - Chlorine being transferred from a damaged car at West Glacier. The BNSF train derailed near the entrance to Glacier National Park on February 15 due to a broken rail. Two chlorine cars derailed; however, despite substantial concern by area residents, there were no leaks or injuries. Evacuation plans and a command post were in place per Flathead County Office of Emergency Services Director, Alan Marble.

Photograph
Provided By:
Pat McKelvey



More Project Impact! Again, mitigation efforts in Lewis & Clark County are making for safer environments in the Lime Kiln area. These fuel reduction efforts have area residents impressed by the improvements.

Out & About

What's happening?! Emergency Management in Montana.



March 22, 2001 -
Steve Knecht presides at the "Fires 2000" Critique by local DES/EM Coordinators in Helena.

Photographs
Provided By:
Bill Thomas



Powell County Sheriff, Scott Howard and OEM coordinator Bart Barton help celebrate Powell County's 100th birthday on February 2, 2001 in Deer Lodge.



February 8, 2001:
Randy Sutton—Coordinator, Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency.
Greg Chilcotte—Coordinator, Ravallin County Office of Emergency Management.
Alan Marble—Director, Flathead County Fire and Emergency Services.

Point of Contact:

**Foreign Animal Disease.....Steve Knecht
(406) 841-3961**



Governor's Conference,
2001 —Mike McMeekin
teaching a Population Pro-
tection Workshop.



March 13-15, 2001—
Jolene Jacobson at
the CSKT HazMat
Conference.



April 4, 2001—The State Cubical at
the Holter Dam Exercise conducted
by PP&L in Great Falls.

Point of Contact:

Drought.....Dan McGowan
..... (406) 841-3964

Montana's Drought website:

<http://nr.is.state.mt.us/drought/>



Photographs
Provided By:
Bill Thomas

Using a Generator

When Disaster Strikes

Purchasing a Generator—If you choose to buy a generator make sure you get one that is listed with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

Look at the labels on lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect to the generator to determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate the equipment. For lighting, the wattage of the light bulb indicates the power needed. Appliances and equipment usually have labels indicating power requirements on them. Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on. If you generator does not produce adequate power for all your needs, plan to stagger the operating times for various equipment. If you can not determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate your appliances, lighting and equipment, ask an electrician to determine that for you. (if your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, then you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.)

Using a Generator—Follow the directions supplied with the generator. Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors, including inside a garage. Adequate ventilation is necessary and proper refueling practices, as described in the owner's manual, must be followed. It is a good idea to install one or more Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms inside your home (following manufacturer's installation directions). If CO gas from a generator enters your home and poses a health risk, the alarm will sound to warn you. Many home fires and deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning have occurred from using a generator improperly. Statistics from the Northeastern Ice Storm of January/February 1997 show that as many as 100 people were killed and 5,000 people injured by misuse of a generator at home.

Be sure to let the generator cool down before refueling. Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator. Store fuel for the generator out of doors in a locked shed or other protected area. Do not store fuel in a garage, basement or anywhere inside a home, as vapors can be released that may cause illness and are a potential fire or explosion hazard.

Why you should not hook up a generator directly to

your home's wiring—The safest thing to do is connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. There are several reasons why hooking up a generator to your home's electrical services is not a wise idea.



Home-use (non-industrial) generators do not supply enough amperage to supply sufficient power for today's homes (that is, to run an air conditioner, lighting, appliances and other electronic equipment). Unless your home's power supply was installed with a disconnect to the main power feeding lines, power you put into your home from a generator could "backfeed" into the main line and cause problems for the electrical utility company, your neighbors or yourself.

"Backfeeding" is supplying electrical power from a generator at the residence into the incoming utility lines. This occurs when the necessary equipment used to isolate the generator from the incoming power lines is not installed.

The 1999 National Electrical Code, Published by the National Fire Protection Association, is a nationally recognized standard for safe electrical installations. The NEC does permit an interface between the normal power source (generally the electric utility) and an alternate power source (such as a standby or portable generator) provide that the proper transfer equipment that prevents "backfeeding" is used. Simply connecting a cord from the generator to a point on the permanent wiring system and "backfeeding" power is an unsafe method to supply a building during a utility outage.

Improper connection methods not only endanger the building occupants, but pose a serious hazard to electric utility workers as well.

There are a number of product available that will provide either an automatic or manual transfer between two power sources in a manner prescribed by the NEC. When selecting a product for this function, it should be one that has been evaluated for safe performance by a nationally recognized testing organization such as Underwriters Laboratories. The product must be installed according to the NEC, all applicable state and local codes and the manufacturer's instructions. Homeowners should only attempt to install such products if they have a thorough knowledge of safe electrical installation practices for this type of equipment. Otherwise a qualified electrician should be contacted.

Prepared By: Chris Floyd
Disaster Services Director
Capital Area Chapter
American Red Cross

Would you call 911?

Relatively few people call 911 when they experience severe chest pain. When polled, 89% said they would call 911 and ride to the hospital in an ambulance. But in reality, only 23% of people with severe chest pain get to the hospital by ambulance—61% are driven by someone else and 16% drive themselves.

January 1, 2001
Bottom Line



Enriched vs. fortified: A food is *enriched* if the nutrients lost during refining or packaging have been replaced. A food is *fortified* if its existing nutrient content is increased.

January 1, 2001
Bottom Line

International travelers are more likely to be killed in a traffic accident than by illness. *The key:* Learn local traffic rules, cross streets carefully and do not drive after dark.

January 1, 2001
Bottom Line



Stressed? Sleeping in could help you reduce your stress levels. People who wake up after 7:21 a.m. have lower blood levels of the stress hormone cortisol than those who wake up earlier. This is true even if they are awakened suddenly at a later time or go to bed later than usual.

January 1, 2001
Bottom Line



Do you **FEAR**.....going to bed?

You suffer from **Clinophobia**



For the best sunglass lenses use gray, green or brown. They absorb UV and infrared light better than blue. Blue lenses provide no protection from harmful ultraviolet and infrared components of sunlight and can distort col-

ors—such as on traffic signals—during daylight. Only welders should use blue lenses to help protect them from the glare of acetylene torches.



January 1, 2001
Bottom Line

Out & About

**What's happening?!
Emergency Management in Montana.**



February 1, 2001 - Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County OEM and Erica Trejemer, Ravalli County Deputy/Volunteer at the Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management.



February, 2001 - Some of the Coordinators/ Emergency Managers at the Association Meeting.

Photographs
Provided By:
Bill Thomas

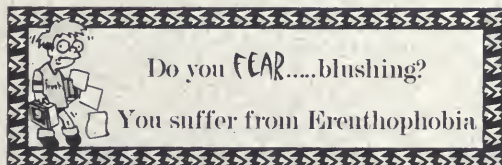
March 13, 2001 in Polson - Military Cadets from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan at the HazMat Advanced Incident Command Course coordinated by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Lloyd Jackson, Coordinator.





Old Timer's Table at the Association Meeting in February. Buzzy Peterson, Anaconda/Deer Lodge; Mike Fleming, former Park County Coordinator; Dick Giffin, former Lake County Coordinator (current Deputy Coordinator); and Dick's wife Donna.

February, 2001—Cindy Mullaney helps honor (roast?) Wilma Puich at Fort Harrison.



February, 2001 - Recently appointed DES/EM Coordinators stand behind members of the DES Coordination Association. "E-Board" in Helena.

Montana was awarded a US Dept. of Justice grant to provide equipment to first responders for terrorism or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents. This grant requires the state to complete an assessment of the training and equipment capabilities for fire, law, EMS, public works, and health; a target and threat assessment; and the development of a state terrorism/WMD strategic plan.

A committee endorsed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is assisting in the development of the strategic plan. The committee consists of individuals representing response entities throughout the state. The co-chairs of the committee are Craig Palmer, MT Highway Patrol and Jim Hirose, Great Falls Fire Department. The committee members are: John Alston, Bozeman Public Works; Glenn Huestis, Blaine County Sheriff; Dick Lewis, Missoula Police Department; Scott Waldron, Frenchtown Fire Department; Brad Carroll, Miles City Fire Department; Kevin Fitzgerald, St. Peters Ambulance; Ken Leighton-Boster, MT Dept. of Public Health and Human Services – EMS; Chuck Amdahl, FBI; Bryan Costigan, MT Dept. of Justice; Lorrie Leighton-Boster, MT Dept. of Public Health and Human Services; and Steve Hester, MSU Fire Training School.

The strategic planning committee met the end of March and identified the following:

- Minimum response capabilities for entry into the grant on-line computer system.



Responder Assessment & Terrorism/WMD Strategic Plan Update

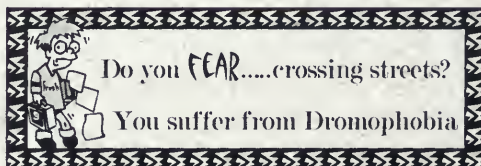
- Entities that did not return a fire, EMS, or public works assessment.
- Goals and objectives in relation to equipment, training, exercises, and technical assistance.

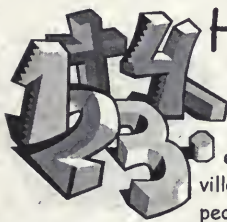
Currently the assessments are being reviewed and the information entered into the grant on-line computer system. For those entities identified as missing an assessment, a request was sent out the end of April to the county coordinator to encourage the completion of the assessment survey. Goals and objectives are being incorporated into the draft plan along with addressing the required questions related to the process of gathering the assessments and developing the plan.

The next committee meeting is July 18 and 19, 2001 in Helena. The tentative time line for completion of the three-year strategic plan is December. If you have any questions, please contact Sheri Medow Smith, Violence Coordinator, MT Disaster & Emergency Services, PO Box 4789, Helena MT 59604. (406) 841-3969
sheris@state.mt.us



Submitted by:
Sheri Medow Smith
MT DES





How do you figure?

If

we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing

human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, north & south

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance,

understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

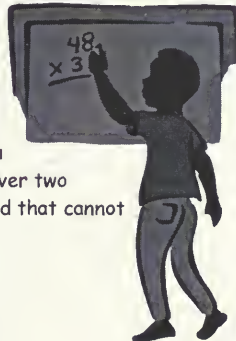
If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.

If you can read this, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

- Author Unknown



Good Disaster Management

This is the final submission in a series of articles summarized from "Ten Criteria for Evaluating the Management of Community Disasters" by E.L. Quarantelli, Co-Director of the Disaster Research Center of the University of Delaware.

Principle 10

Have a well-functioning Emergency Operations (coordination) Center

Even if all the criteria described in the previous nine articles are implemented, many things can still go wrong because of the many groups and activities involved in disaster response.

For many researchers, the key to a good overall crisis response is a well-functioning Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Organized activity at a disaster is clearly aided if responding organizations, local and otherwise, are aware of and represented at a common place or location. At a minimum, adequate communication provision, computers, sufficient work space and certain resources, such as maps and equipment inventories (resource lists), are required. However, even if the physical facilities are adequate, the coordination center is useless unless organizations send liaison personnel to it.

The EOC is a social system; if relevant and basic functions are carried out, its location and the physical facilities are relatively unimportant. What is crucial is that its liaison personnel be knowledgeable and possess certain decision-making responsibilities in their own organizations. A coordinated response is unlikely if the representing officials at the EOC are too low level.

Such people not only have inadequate knowledge of the capabilities and resources of their organization, but are not yet integrated into the decision-making process of their own groups.

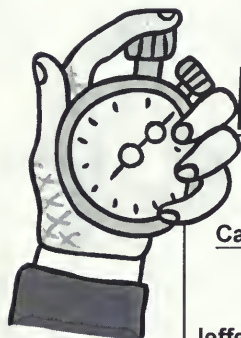
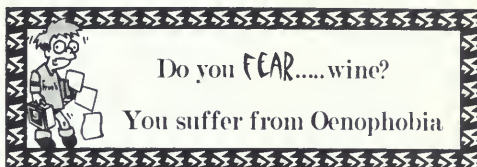
In an effective overall response, conflict among groups (local/state/federal) will be minimal. While potential problems may be dealt with anywhere, an EOC is a good place where representatives of different groups can meet to work out problems.

Overall, an EOC functioning in the ways sketched out above is another indicator of good disaster management. This is not to say that everything will go smoothly. The social climate of an EOC is a very stressful one: there is pressure to take action, limited and uncertain information, shifting priorities and overlapping lines of authority and responsibility.

(In the next newsletter, we'll outline some differences between "incident command" command posts and Emergency Coordination Centers)

Contributed By:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep





LAST MINUTE

County Updates

Cascade County/City of Great Falls:

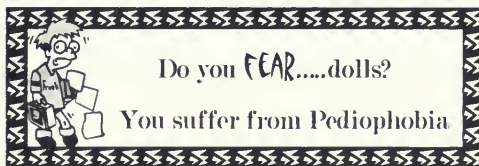
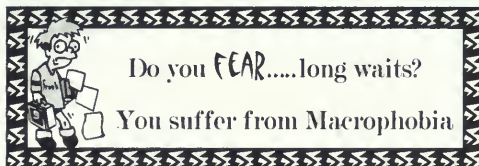
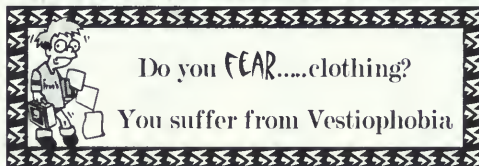
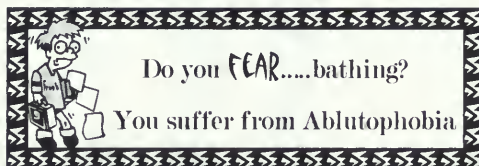
Coordinator: Vince Kolar

Jefferson County:

New County Coordinator: Kim Johnson

Powell County:

New Deputy: Brian Dankers

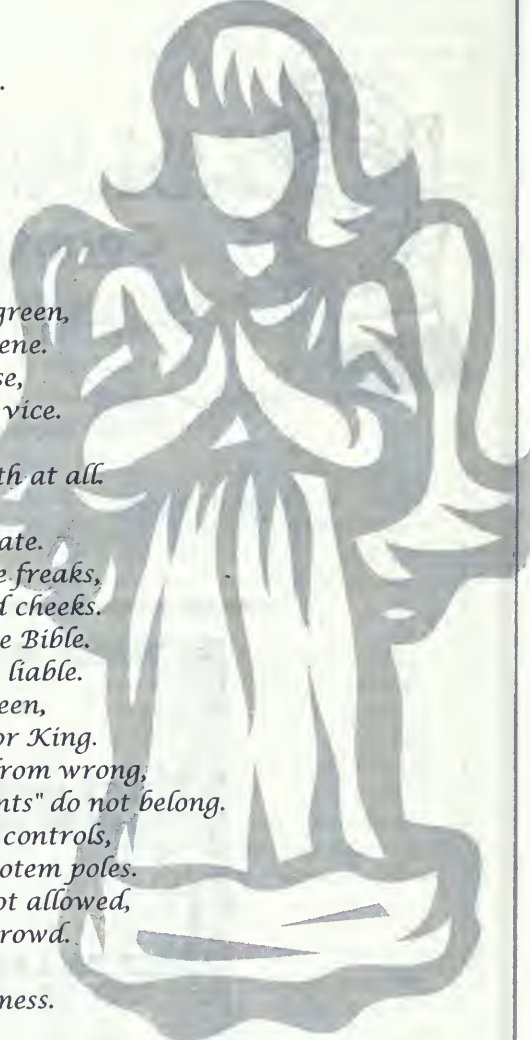


The New School Prayer

Now I set me down in school
Where praying is against the rule.
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.
If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.
Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise,
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.
For praying in a public hall
might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but first the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the "unwed daddy," our Senior King.
It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong;
We're taught that such "judgements" do not belong.
We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.
It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
*Should I be shot; My soul please take!

Amen

Written by a teen student in Bagdad, Arizona



help restore power. Two more crews scheduled to help restore power. Crews will have to get through due to new storm system and road closures.

With forecasts for more snow for the rest of the week it's a foregone conclusion that winter has arrived in southeast Montana.

JULY

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BAKER, MONTANA 59313

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2000



• 1 p.m.



Election day blizzard hits southeastern Montana

By Jody Strand

Snow and high winds buffeted southeastern Montana for the second time in a week and kept many residents from the polls on election day.

Snow began in Baker last Wednesday evening, Nov. 1. Highway 7 from Wibaux to Ekalaka was closed between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Thursday and Interstate 94 at Wibaux closed shortly after due to drifting snow and high winds.

Several power lines and poles were down in rural areas causing emergency conditions for ranchers with livestock. Freezing rain and heavy snow also caused many crossarms to break power poles. Southeast Electric worked around the clock to restore power to areas from Alzada to Willard. When the second storm hit Monday night, Nov. 6, some ranchers were still without electricity. A local crew helped set poles with a crew arriving from Circle last Saturday, Nov. 4 to help restore power. Two more crews scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, Nov. 7 were unable to get through due to new storm system and road closures.

Southeast Electric line foreman, Herb Kerr, said their whole system of 950 people, 1800 meters and 1700 miles of line was shut down on Wednesday night, Nov. 1. Much of the electricity was restored Thursday Nov. 2, but the town of Alzada was without power for five days. The area from the Jerry Sikorski ranch north to Willard along Highway 7 were still without power Tuesday, Nov. 7. With the road still closed there was no way for Southeast Electric to get to them.

Highway 12 from Miles City to the North Dakota line and Interstate 94 from Glendive to the North Dakota line were open but listed as emergency travel only.

The second storm system has not created any more outages but has hampered efforts to finish work from the first one. Kerr said, "This is the worst one I've ever seen for outages, the whole system was down. I've never seen a storm like it."

With forecasts for more snow for the rest of the week it's a foregone conclusion that winter has arrived in southeast Montana.

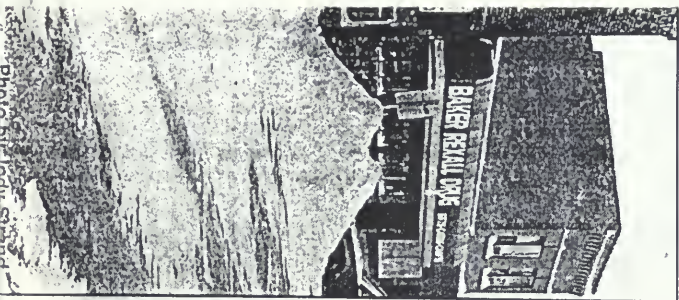
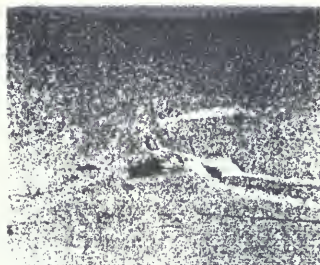


Photo by Jody Strand



Trails had to be plowed before line trucks could attempt repairs.

through. The outage had been a stressful experience."

Schell said, "It's a miracle when you think of it. I don't know of anybody, co-op personnel or members that was seriously hurt during the outage. When you consider the terrible weather conditions and the lines that were down all over, some of them hot, it's a real compliment to everybody that the storm was survived without a fatality or even a serious injury."

Sheridan Electric has a lot to be thankful for. Helpful fellow electric cooperatives share the number one spot on that list with understanding and helpful members.

Cooperatives who sent personnel and equipment to help with the disaster are: McCone Electric in Circle, Fergus Electric in Lewistown, Northern Electric in Opheim, Valley Electric in Glasgow, Hill County Electric in Havre and two North Dakota cooperatives, Montrail Williams and Burke Divide.

"They all did a great job," said Schell, "as did the guys on the WAPA crew and the contract crews from Red Rock and Aerial Contractors. Everyone did a great job, right down to the women handling the phones in the office. The office personnel really pitched in."

Schell said 99 percent of the comments from the co-op's members were positive.

"They knew we were doing everything we could and they were thankful when the power came back on," he said. We received about 100 thank you notes."

One woman wrote, "To all the friendly employees of Sheridan Electric, especially the line crew, who put their lives on the line when they

came out during the raging blizzard last Friday night so our power could be restored in a short while, mere words cannot express our thanks."

Schell said one woman who was very stressed out by the outage called in and "vented" to one of the office workers to the point that the woman was crying.

"She called back an hour later and apologized," Schell said, "but you couldn't blame her for being stressed."



Power poles snapped like match sticks under the weight of ice laden lines.

Sheridan Electric Member Services Manager Rick Knick performed dual tasks during the outage. Each morning he would contact the media with information on how work was progressing and what areas would be receiving power that day. Then Knick, who is also a master electrician, would help crews in the field.

"Actually, I spent a lot of time hauling people in the pickup and shoveling snow," he said with a grin.

increase in rates for the co-op members beginning in January 2001. "We will look at it again in another year or two," Schell said.

"We completed the equivalent of a 10-year work plan in about two and a half months," Schell said. He said 115 miles of line had been strung and more will be needed as more problem areas arise. One problem that is being encountered is that stretched wire that has become smaller in circumference

and thus can't carry as much electricity must be replaced. Stretched wire also sags dangerously low and warmer weather will make that problem worse. Even lines that don't have to be replaced may have to be re-hung.



Sheridan Electric Member Services Manager Rick Knick near a large mound of snow left after the storm.

Ice disaster

Continued from page 7

While some farms and ranches had standby generators, most did not and they became a premium during the early days of the outage. Some were purchased at nearby Williston, North Dakota but supplies were depleted quickly. A dealer from Billings brought a truckload of them to the area and set up shop.

Many local residents learned the hard way how to choose the right size generator and have it wired correctly. At least one family burned out three generators in the process. Many others burned out one or two. They learned they had to run appliances and heaters in shifts to keep the load on the generators low. Most of the burn outs were caused by overloading but some were connected to the houses incorrectly. That sometimes also created a dangerous "backfeeding" situation. When that occurred, electricity was backed and sometimes increased in voltage onto downed power lines

*"I'll never
complain about
the size of my
power bill again."*

resulting in the danger of electrocution of people working on the lines.

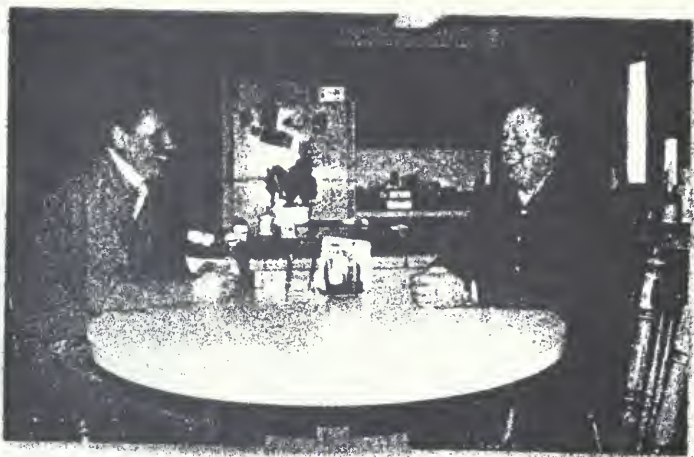
There were no deaths or even serious injuries during the outage. Schell attributes that to the professional and safe way workers did their jobs.

"They (the workers) made sure all lines were grounded out before they began working on them," said Schell.

People discovered that generators can burn a lot of fuel when used over a long period of time, creating a major expense.

"I'll never complain about the size of my power bill again," quipped one man.

The lack of electricity brought out ingenuity and resourcefulness in many people. Snow was melted for wash water, meals were cooked in fireplaces and homework was done by lantern



Sheridan Electric Member Services Manager Rick Knick (left) and co-op member Dick Hanson share power outage stories in Hanson's kitchen.

light. Sometimes water had to be hauled to livestock or livestock were moved to water, all under cold and stressful conditions.

When the power went out at Dick and Diane Hanson's ranch five miles northwest of Bainville, they didn't think much about it.

"We have had outages before but never for very long," Dick said. "Maybe an hour or two, never as long as a day. Then we began hearing how bad the situation was. We had a small generator but when we heard the power could be out a couple of weeks, we were lucky to be able to purchase a generator big enough to provide power for the whole ranch."

The generator was connected to the power takeoff attachment on the Hanson's large tractor. The tractor burned \$35 worth of fuel a day running the generator even though he shut it down each night. He had to carry the fuel to the tractor in five gallon cans

because if he drove the tractor to the fuel tank, there was no electricity to run the tank's pump.

"It was so cold, I wrapped the tractor engine up in tarps every night and just hoped it would start the next day," Dick said. "And fortunately we were able to get the cattle home where we have a creek and I was able to chop holes in the ice so they could get water."

A neighbor of the Hansons tried to drive into town to get fuel for his generator and got stuck in a blizzard. Luckily, he had his cellular phone with him and was able to summon help. Another neighbor was nine months pregnant. She was transported temporarily into town. It was a case of neighbor looking out for neighbor, Dick said.

"I remember when the power came on," said Dick. "It had been out for 11 days. It came on at 5 p.m. and I went to sleep at 6 and slept the whole night

*Crawler tractors
were the only
vehicles that could
navigate some
areas following the
storm.*



Ice disaster plunges residents into days of dark, deep freeze

By Mack McConnell

It was the worst I've ever seen," one old timer told another as they sipped on their coffee in the café. "It" was the Ice Storm of 2000 and it was certainly the worst the employees of Sheridan Electric Cooperative in Medicine Lake had ever seen. It tore down nearly 1,200 power poles, plunging an area 20 miles by 70 miles into darkness. What followed was three weeks of blizzards and freezing temperatures that tested the mettle of people and equipment. The area was declared a disaster site by the state and federal governments.

It began with a freak weather condition on the morning of November 1. Warm clouds poured an inch and a half of rain into a lower layer of air that had temperatures hovering around 20 degrees. Ice began forming on every cold surface. The ice buildup on power lines was fast and heavy. The lines looked like gigantic, six-inch-thick ropes. The ice added about 35 pounds per foot to the weight of the lines, which began to stretch and sag.

Then came a blizzard blowing in from the northwest. The ice-laden lines began to sway, especially those running east and west. Power poles began to snap and splinter. When one pole would fall, it would create added stress on the next pole and it would break and fall and then the next pole and the next. The domino affect resulted in about 70 miles of tangled wood and wire and approximately 1,200 people without electricity.

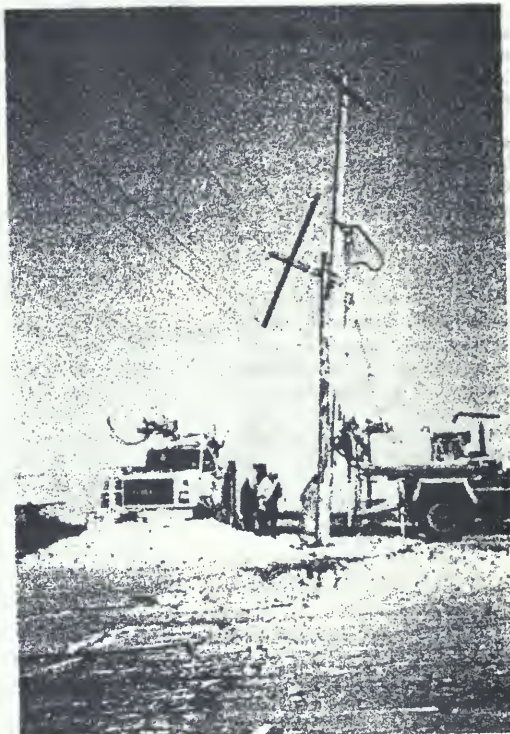
Sheridan Electric line crews began repairing the damage the next day. They found that the rain-soaked ground under the foot of new snow had not frozen. Almost every time a line truck left the road it became stuck in the mud.

A flyover of the area revealed the extent of the damage and the call went

out for assistance from other cooperatives. The response was quick and strong. In a few days, Sheridan Electric, which usually has eight men in the field, had 60 personnel and equipment from several cooperatives and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) working on the problem. Extra temporary help was also hired locally. At one point, a total of 72 people were working directly or indirectly for the co-op.

The Medicine Lake Wildlife Refuge also lent the use of its caterpillar tractor and Sheridan County crews and area farmers and ranchers helped with the task of clearing roads and extracting stuck vehicles. Conditions on the ground were such that the snow in areas along side of the lines had to be plowed before the trucks could get in. Even then, trucks often had to be dragged in and out by tractors. Sometimes the tractors, even crawler tractors, became mired down. The plows couldn't get too far ahead of the line crews because when they did, the plowed areas drifted shut again and had to be re-plowed.

It soon became obvious to Sheridan Electric Manager Bill Schell that there was no quick fix to the situation. Crews



Linemen replace splintered poles in frigid conditions.

worked long hours every day for the next three weeks. During that time, it snowed on 10 days and the temperature only rose above freezing on three days. On November 24, the day before Thanksgiving, power was restored to the last residence. It was much later that power was restored to the many oil wells in the area. Lines to stock wells may not be repaired until spring.

Keeping all of the crews supplied with materials and food was a major logistic undertaking. "They were scattered all over the place but we kept them supplied and brought them hot lunches," Schell said. "The women in the office coordinated that."

Continued on page 8

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is a winner

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ve as many as 130 tutions. People who nturged to do so. the Town Office may py to pick up the

ry Double-Tree, Inc.,

egins, Fri.

urnament is slated to izer James Kapatie for the tournament expects eight or ten

urd and several ill be familiar from ret Tournament, r. Teams from couple of college through Sunday.

Southwest Electric receives disaster payment

Much of the cost of repairing damage caused by a Halloween night ice storm will be covered by federal disaster funds, co-op manager Jack Hamblin announced, Monday.

Southwest Electric Cooperative received a check from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, part of the agency's commitment to fund 75 percent of the costs to Southwest and other Montana electric co-ops to repair damage from the ice storm.

About \$80,000 that Southwest will spend for replacing poles and downed power lines, as well as some administrative costs, was eligible for the FEMA disaster reimbursement.

Federal funds were made available by county, state, and federal disaster declarations made in the wake of the storm. Southwest Electric was able to apply for the disaster monies, and worked through the county disaster and emergency services coordinator, Candy



Southwest Electric Cooperative will have much of the expense for repairing damage to electric lines after the Halloween night ice storm reimbursed by federal disaster funds. The disaster payment reimburses Southwest Electric for 75 percent of the \$80,000 that the Co-op will spend to repair the damage. Above, Southwest Electric manager Jack Hamblin, left, accepts the disaster check from county disaster and emergency services coordinator Candy Loehling. The check was brought to Ekalaka by DES district representative Norman Parrent, seen at right.

Loehling.

The first of at least two reimbursement checks was brought to Southwest Manager Hamblin by Disaster and Emergency Services division representative Norman Parrent of Miles City, Monday. Southwest still has some damage to repair, mostly service to stock wells, Hamblin

said.

Parrent stated that the Southwest Electric application for disaster funds was facilitated by the co-op's good record keeping system, which documented the costs created by the storm damage. Disaster funds were made to five electric cooperatives, two counties, and an Indian Reservation

throughout central and southeastern Montana. For the ice storm, FEMA funds totalled about \$2 million.

The reimbursement is vital to Southwest, Hamblin said, because the unexpected expenses had seriously stretched the co-op's reserves.

WIBAUX NEER-GAZETTE

Serving Wibaux County and the Town of Wibaux, Montana Since January, 1907

Forty-five Cents
Per Copy

Health Fair to be held March 29 at WCHS

Dr. D - Allergy Screening.
Wibaux Bank will provide a
breakfast of juice, coffee
for those attending the
fair. Local business as well
as exhibitors at the fair
have donated items for
to be held throughout the
fair.
Dr. Lakes is sponsoring a
contest for grades K-6 with
of "Doctor Day-March
posters will be exhibited at

the Health Fair and prizes given for
first, second, and third place entries
in following divisions: K-1, 2-3, 4-6.
No appointments are necessary and
there is no charge for admission.
The Health Fair Committee would
like to invite everyone from the Wi-
boux community as well as the sur-
rounding communities to attend and
participate in this year's Health Fair.
For more information contact the
Wibaux County Extension Office at
(406)796-2486.

Pre-School Screening to be held here April 4

Pre-school Screening will be
held at the Wibaux Elementary
on Wednesday, April 4 from
3:30 p.m. for children in
this screening is for child-
birth through 5 years of age.
Pre-screening will include
3 Kindergarten students
to be enrolled in the 2001-
2002 year.
Screening is provided as a
service at no cost to the par-
ents Wibaux Public Schools.
is of development to be

screened include hearing, vision,
speech-language, fine and gross
motor, and concept. The Develop-
mental-Educational Assistance Pro-
gram (DEAP) and the Wibaux
County Health Department will also
take part in this screening.
If you have a child at home be-
tween the ages of birth and 5 years
of age and would like to have
him/her included in this screening,
please call the Wibaux Elementary
School at 406-796-2518 to arrange
an appointment.

WCHS Drama Club to present play

WCHS Drama Department
"Hyronomous A. Frog: The
nce", by Edith Weiss. The
fractured fairy tale that the
milv will enjoy. It will be

nomous A. Frog; Amanda Hansen as
Princess Gladiola; Kelsey Troutner
as Gloria; Alisa Maus as Queen Bea;
Carolyn Rogers as Delphinium; and
Brandon Michels as Sir Lancelot



Norman Parrent, representing Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, presents a check to John Sokoloski, Manager of Goldenwest Electric, Inc. The check, for over \$8,300.00, was for some of the losses incurred by the co-operative during the snow storms in November. The funds were available from F.E.M.A. due to a Presidential Declaration which affected several counties in the eastern part of Montana. Goldenwest also received a check from North Dakota for losses incurred in that state during the same storm.

Programs are available to assist area senior citizens From extra groceries to tax assistance

For senior citizens on fixed in-
comes who are facing rising cost of
heating bills and medical expenses,
it may be helpful to receive a few
extra groceries.

Through a federally funded and
state coordinated program, many

want to check out a tax credit for
homeowner/renter when filing their
Montana State Taxes this year. The
elderly Homeowners/Renters Credit
may mean money refunds. There will
be people to help senior to do taxes
at The Senior Center on Monday

EACH NEHRP FEDERAL AGENCY HAS A ROLE . . .

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the overall NEHRP effort and:

- supports public-private partnerships to develop disaster-resistant communities
- helps State and local government decision-makers by providing tools for estimating potential losses due to earthquake hazards
- develops and coordinates the execution of Federal response plans
- prepares technical documents on improving the seismic safety of new and existing buildings
- works with national standards organizations to coordinate development of seismic standards for new and existing buildings and lifelines
- prepares and disseminates information about building codes and practices.

FEMA resources can be obtained from the FEMA Publications Warehouse, 1-800-480-2520. The FEMA Web site is www.fema.gov.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is responsible for carrying out research and development to improve standards and codes for building construction. Information is available at www.nist.gov. Under NEHRP, NIST also:

- promotes better building practices among architects and engineers
- works with model building code organizations to implement research results
- works with national standards organizations to develop seismic standards for new and existing lifelines.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) encourages earthquake hazards mitigation by supporting research on the causes and dynamics of earthquakes, on earthquake engineering, and on human response to earthquakes through grants to individual investigators, consortia, and research centers. Information is available at www.nsf.gov. Under NEHRP, NSF also:

- supports research on plate tectonics and earthquake processes
- funds engineering research on geotechnical, structural, architectural, and lifeline systems
- supports research on the social and economic aspects of earthquake hazard mitigation
- supports the education and training of new scientists and engineers in the field.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducts and supports earth science investigations that increase knowledge about the origins of earthquakes and:

- provides national and regional seismic hazard and risk maps
- conducts engineering seismology studies of the ground-shaking phenomenon
- supports an external cooperative grants research program
- operates national seismograph networks
- develops methods and standardized procedures for forecasting earthquakes.

USGS resources, including seismic and other maps, can be viewed on the USGS Web site at www.usgs.gov. The Earthquake Hazards Program is available at earthquake.usgs.gov.

RESOURCES

A wide variety of resources are available to those interested in earthquake hazard mitigation.

- FEMA Publications Warehouse, 1-800-480-2520. A sample of the documents available includes:
Reducing the Risks of Nonstructural Earthquake Damage: A Practical Guide. 3rd Ed., 1994. (Report #FEMA-74)
This publication describes the sources of nonstructural earthquake damage, provides information on effective methods of reducing potential risks from such damage, assists in identifying potential hazards, and provides specific guidance with upgrade details that readers can do themselves.
Seismic Considerations for Communities at Risk. 1995. (Report #FEMA-83)
This publication provides community decision-makers and others with information for assessing seismic risk, making informed decisions about seismic safety in their communities, and determining what might be done to mitigate that risk.
Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards: A Handbook. 1988. (Report #FEMA-154)
This handbook presents a method for quickly identifying buildings posing risk of death, injury, or severe curtailment of use after an earthquake. The procedure can be used by trained personnel to identify potentially hazardous buildings by means of an exterior inspection.
- "Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction," American Planning Association, 1998. (PAS Report #483-484) Written by Jim Schwab.
Available from the APA at www.planning.org.
This report is the first all-hazards guidance manual for local planners developing plans for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction from flood, earthquake, tornado, wildfire, and hurricane and includes planning tools for managing long-term recovery.





NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM

PARTNERS IN EARTHQUAKE MITIGATION

In 1977, Congress passed the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act to "reduce the risks to life and property from future earthquakes in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake hazards reduction program." To accomplish this, the act established the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP).

NEHRP is . . .

. . . the Federal Government's coordinated approach to addressing earthquake risks. NEHRP's goal is to reduce the risks to life and property in the United States from earthquakes. To accomplish this goal, NEHRP offers technical materials to assist in new construction and rehabilitation of buildings to make them as earthquake resistant as possible. It is a multi-agency program that involves all Federal departments and agencies that are involved with seismic safety activities. The primary agencies are:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)



NEHRP'S MISSION . . .

. . . is to conduct earthquake hazard identification and vulnerability analyses; to develop seismic design and construction guidelines; to develop an earthquake prediction capability; to prepare plans for mitigation, preparedness, and response activities; to conduct fundamental and applied research into the causes and implications of earthquake hazards; and to educate the public about earthquake hazards.

EARTHQUAKES ARE A REAL CONCERN IN THE U.S.

Earthquakes represent the largest single potential for damage from a natural hazard facing this country. The potential for earthquakes in the United States is not limited to California! They are a national threat, with 45 States and territories at moderate to very high risk.

Our rapidly expanding, densely populated urban areas in seismic zones are exposed to high risk of loss of life and property and of service and business interruption. A large-magnitude earthquake under any one of several urban areas could result in thousands of deaths and losses of \$200 billion or more.

Recent findings show a significantly increased potential for damaging earthquakes in southern California and in northern California on the Hayward fault. Other studies show, for example, higher earthquake potential than previously estimated for the Pacific Northwest and for Charleston, South Carolina. Areas with a high earthquake hazard are Alaska, Hawaii, the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the central United States, and the Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands region. The States of the Pacific Northwest, the central United States, and the Northeast historically have experienced major earthquakes.



PROJECT IMPACT . . .

. . . helps communities build their capabilities to reduce the effects of disasters by encouraging and enhancing local private, public, and not-for-profit partnerships.

HYPOTHERMIA IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER?

By Cathy Humphrey

Mother Nature, for all of her beauty, can turn on unsuspecting hikers and skiers with lightning speed. Even a small taste of her power can leave us in awe, and in danger of suffering the ill effects of exposure. Planning, proper attire and a little common sense are the best defense.

Avoiding hypothermia, as everyone knows, is critical while taking part in winter activities. But winter is not the only time that outdoor activities leave us vulnerable to the elements. It is equally important in the fall and spring to protect yourself from losing too much body heat. In fact, hypothermia is more likely to occur when the outside temperature is between 0°C and 10°C. In colder temperatures, it seems, people tend to dress more appropriately when they first set out.

With record snowfalls in parts of western Canada last winter and a less than spectacular summer, many hikers found that even in July it was necessary to don a full layer of fleece and a windbreaker to keep warm during a lunch stop. While it may be warm and sunny in the valley, the same is not always true at higher elevations. It is common for the temperature at the top to be a few degrees colder than in the valley.

Because of this, it is important to protect yourself from hypothermia all year round.

Your normal body temperature is approximately 37°C. Hypothermia begins when your core body temperature drops below 35°C. To protect your vital organs, your body will restrict the blood flow to your extremities, sacrificing them if necessary. It is, therefore, imperative

that you be well prepared for any trip into the outdoors.

The following 6 steps can help protect you from this life-threatening, yet easily avoidable condition.

Early Warning Signs:

- shivering
- hunching of shoulders
- decrease in manual dexterity
- numbness of skin
- fatigue

1. Wear multiple layers of clothing. Layering is by far the most flexible way to control your body temperature. You can add or remove layers as necessary to increase or lower your body temperature.

2. Because cotton stays wet when dampened with perspiration or precipitation, it should be avoided. Numerous synthetic materials are available that are quite affordable and dry more quickly, reducing the amount of heat lost through evaporation.

3. Always bring a rain jacket. Allowing your clothes to get wet will only hasten the onset of hypothermia. Put your jacket on **BEFORE** you get wet. It will do you little good to put it on when you're already soaked to the skin.

4. As much as 50 per cent of your body heat can be lost through your head. Always keep a warm hat or head band in your backpack.

5. Take the time to learn the symptoms and treatment for hypothermia. Symptoms can appear with the lowering of your body's core temperature by as little as 2°C. You should never ignore the symptoms, and must take immediate action to prevent further heat loss.

6. Before you set out, get weather and trail reports. Spring rains and winter runoff can often wash out sections of trail, forcing you to turn back or take an alternate, and possibly longer, route.

The Yukon has an abundance of outdoor activities for people of every level of experience and fitness, and the rewards are certainly worth the effort. With a little planning and common sense, you can enjoy what the area has to offer without putting yourself in danger.



Emergency Preparedness Week

May 1-7

"Together We Prepare"

From floods and ice storms to power failures and chemical spills, a number of emergency situations in Canada over the past decade have taught us one thing - the importance of being prepared.

Emergency Preparedness Week, from May 1-7, offers those groups involved in emergency planning and disaster relief to promote the importance of being prepared to the public. This year's theme "Together We Prepare" emphasizes the roles families, communities and the country can play to ready ourselves for emergency situations.

Everyone has a role to play.

The Family:

Preparedness must start at home. This is crucial to reducing the potential impacts of an emergency situation. By increasing the ability of everyone to meet their basic needs, the burden on a community's resources during an emergency situation is reduced. Preparing a basic emergency survival kit and knowing how and where to get emergency information are steps in the right direction.

The Community:

Preparedness is also a responsibility communities take seriously. It starts with community groups being involved in establishing and testing an emergency plan - territorial and municipal authorities, first responders, emergency health services, social services, local industry, utilities, media, volunteer organizations and the public. Working

together before an event will develop better response during emergencies.

The Country:

In Canada, many organizations work together to provide a national support structure, which can assist a community in any emergency extending beyond its resource capabilities. From provincial/territorial and federal resources to those of non-governmental organizations and private industry, a multitude of expertise and resources are available to support local and community efforts and encourage best practices. Preventing and reducing the risk associated with recurring or high-risk events is always possible through dialogue and co-operation.

Plan to be involved with Emergency Preparedness Week May 1 to 7.



"Great Balls of Fire !" continued

most likely areas for debris location. Because of the growing interest, and the fact that new snow would fall, it was decided to search the area by aircraft. The RCMP contributed the use of their Twin Otter, and on January 22, 2000 the pilot, three observers and two members of the media were on their way to see what could be found.

During the flight members of the Carcross SAR team were scanning the area by snow machine as part of a "training exercise". Searching the lake surfaces is also important because when spring arrives, any evidence that may be there will sink to the bottom. Debris on land will always be available for finding.

Around the same time people were looking on the ground, NASA had dispatched a civilian version of the US Military's U2 "spy plane" to collect dust samples from the upper atmosphere, and take pictures of the ground where an impact might have occurred. At the time of writing, the dust samples that were collected had not been fully analyzed.

Two pieces of the meteorite have been found and are currently undergoing analysis at NASA. Undoubtedly this summer, the hills will be alive with the sound of prospectors.



FIRST PERSON

SURVIVING THE TORNADO THREAT

By Tim D. Mosier

Although the recent collection of successful movies featuring storm chasers serves as excellent entertainment, tornadoes are not as forgiving as the ones depicted on the big screen. Believe me, the total disregard of basic tornado safety rules displayed in these films would result in violent death in the real world.

I have chased and spotted tornadoes and severe thunderstorms for over 25 years. In fact, my west-central Missouri county has been struck 18 times since I was born in 1952. Locating and reporting violent tornadoes is dangerous business and should only be attempted by trained and seasoned spotters.

Where does that leave the average citizen? What are your chances of surviving a tornado touchdown? With a little planning and a good understanding of your community's warning system, your chances of survival are high. Over 1,000 tornadoes touch down in the U.S. each year. Fortunately, the vast majority of these tornadoes are classified as weak tornadoes on the Fujita Scale (winds from 73-112 mph). However, even these so-called weak tornadoes are potentially fatal and capable of hurling motor vehicles hundreds of feet.

Sadly, each year scores of people are killed—for the most part, needlessly. The key to surviving a tornado is preparedness. It's a well-known fact that human beings react to crisis situations in one of two ways: Unprepared and caught off guard we panic, losing the ability to reason. If we are prepared for a specific threat, we respond as trained and take the appropriate action.

Planning Key to Survival

Most tornado deaths can be prevented with surprisingly little effort. I have instructed hundreds of severe weather preparedness classes over the years, emphasizing the need to prepare for a



Photo by David James/L.P.I.

tornado long before a tornado watch is issued.

First, you cannot respond to a tornado threat if you don't know a tornado is threatening your area. It is imperative that you know how your community disseminates tornado warnings. Some of the more common warning systems are: outdoor warning sirens, tone-activated monitor systems, cable television override systems, Emergency Alert Stations (AM-FM radio) and NOAA Weather Radio (National Weather Service receivers). Remain alert. Listen to local radio or television stations when severe weather is possible.

Second, once you receive the warning, you must know where to seek shelter. Locate primary or alternative sheltering sites in your home, business and along travel routes to and from frequently visited destinations. Under-ground shelter is your best bet, but not every structure has a basement. When selecting alternative tornado sheltering, remain on the lowest floor possible and in a windowless, inner room such as a closet or bathroom.

If you are caught in a vehicle, get out!

Seek a ditch, depression or an underpass for shelter. Even a weak (F1) tornado can toss a car hundreds of feet. Abandon your vehicle as quickly as possible and find shelter.

Third, remain aware of deteriorating weather conditions. Raise your individual awareness level when severe weather threatens your area.

These three key elements are critical to survival during a tornado. Eliminate any one of the three and you risk becoming a statistic.

Finally, people who do not live in tornado-prone areas need to know these same survival rules. In fact, they may be at a higher risk because tornado safety is not a high priority in these areas. Case in point: The Salt Lake City, UT, tornado of 1999. A weak (F1) tornado barreled its way through the city, killing one person and injuring many others. Why? People actually stood in the streets watching the approaching twister instead of seeking shelter. Tornadoes don't occur in Utah, right? Wrong! Zero awareness. No matter where you live, severe weather preparedness is important, even in areas like Utah where tornadoes are an extremely rare occurrence.

Remember these simple safety rules no matter where you live. Your survival depends upon them. When the wail of the warning sirens sound and deafening, devilish winds begin to roar, you'll be glad you did. ■

Tim D. Mosier is the EMA Director for Sedalia-Pettis County, MO.



Photos courtesy of W.B. & Universal City Studios, Inc.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 4 (UPI) -- Is a new breed of terrorists responsible for the epidemics of Mad Cow and foot and mouth diseases currently plaguing Europe, and are these part of a well-planned "agro-terrorist" assault?

While the idea of agro-terrorism might seem to jump straight out from the script of "The X-Files," a James Bond movie, or even be the subject of some far-fetched conspiracy theory, terrorism experts consider the scenario all too credible.

"I take this extremely seriously," said Peter Probst, who consults on terrorism and is also Vice President and Director of Programs for the Institute for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, in Washington, D.C.

Probst, who has studied this possibility for the last six years, said such an attack would not only have a devastating impact against a nation's agriculture in economic terms but would also have far-reaching psychological aspects.

"If you have a conspiratorial mindset you might think the U.K. is being used as a test," said Probst.

Agro-terrorism -- the term used by these experts -- is not science fiction, and it's a lot closer to reality than many may realize.

"It's incredibly easy to do it, and it requires no sophistication," said Dr. Peter Chalk, a policy analyst with Rand, in Washington, D.C. who has also studied agro-terrorism.

"As a weapon, it's less expensive. It's also very good in so-called asymmetrical warfare -- where you hit a very powerful country at its most vulnerable point -- the economy," said Chalk.

"I would call the American agriculture base, the soft underbelly of the American economy," said Probst. "It generates \$1 trillion a year in export revenue, and an attack against beef or swine would be incredibly costly. It would be disastrous."

While both experts agree that there is no concrete evidence at the moment to support the notion that the current outbreak in Britain and other parts of Europe is the result of a terrorist attack, they do not altogether close the door on that possibility.

Probst, from the Institute for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence agrees. "I have no information that what is happening in Europe is terrorist related," he told UPI.

But he then hastened to add: "Now, all that being said, attacks by terrorists or rogue states against the agriculture basis is something which is been long considered by many states."

According to Chalk, there is certainly a history of states investing in biological warfare programs that target agriculture. But could Iraq, for example, be responsible for such an attack?

While agro-terrorism experts remain reluctant to admit that the current virus infecting Britain's agro-industry is the result of a terrorist attack, some, nonetheless, believe this is what happened.

One such expert, who asked not to be named, went as far as to point the finger at Iraq.

Meanwhile, U.S. intelligence sources at the Dept. of Agriculture say they are working on a vaccine for foot and mouth because they think the terrorist threat here is immediate.

Chalk noted that major nations in modern times have seriously explored the possibility of unleashing biological attacks upon their enemies.

"Germany for instance, had an operation going in 1917, here in the United States," he said. "They infected draft animals that were going to be sent to Europe. The Soviet Union had about 10,000 scientists and technicians working on anti-agriculture agents."

Proving that a specific country, or group, is responsible for an agro-terror attack will be difficult.

"There is something called stealth terrorism," said Probst, "which is basically terrorist acts that masquerade as acts of God or unfortunate accidents."

Then there are "black operations," where in another situation, one country would purposely leave clues pointing to another nation.

One example, said Probst, "would involve a scenario where Iraq would leave trails leading to Iran." Indeed, if the perpetrators do not want the action traced back to them, proving it would be nearly impossible.

Iraq, for example, could well be out for revenge against Britain and the United States for the part they played in the Gulf War in 1991, and for the continued economic sanctions imposed on it to this day.

What is particularly attractive to potential terrorists when targeting agriculture is the ease with which it can be attacked.

"Firstly," said Chalk, "when talking about terrorism and terrorists experimenting with exotic weapons, like biological weapons, one of the main factors that appears to have constrained their escalation to that level has been the difficulty in actually weaponizing pathogens and viable agents and actually accessing suitable strains.

"With agricultural diseases neither of those conditions hold. Something like foot and mouth, for instance, spreads by itself," Chalk said. "There is no need to weaponize the agent, it's so transmissible."

The nature of agriculture livestock in many Western countries, particularly in the United States, where it is so concentrated, further facilitates the agro-terrorist's task.

"If you introduced the disease at a location, you would be sure to get a very rapid transmission of that disease," said Chalk.

"The second thing is that it is very easy to get the disease and import it," he said.

An added bonus for the terrorist is that there are numerous places around the United States where foot and mouth is prevalent, Chalk said.

"All you have to do is pop one of the lesions on an infected animal in order to have enough to ensure an outbreak. Needless to say it is harmless to the handler," he said.

The next question is why would terrorists want to attack the agriculture? The answer is an easy target that can lead to great social disruption. Think how the current disease has affected tourism and industry in Britain. Since the outbreak, many parts of the country have been closed to visitors, costing the tourist industry millions every week.

Daily life has been greatly perturbed with consumers shunning meat products, sports events have been cancelled, and Prime Minister Tony Blair has been forced to postpone the general elections he was expected to hold in May.

More than a million heads of cattle, sheep and pigs -- many of them in good health -- are being slaughtered as a prevention to curb the epidemic from spreading.

There are serious concerns now among those closely following these issues that it may spark off extremism from animal rights protestors and environmental activists -- both of whom act more or less in coordination with one another.

The epidemic could also turn the population against the government because it could be charged with incompetence. One of the best ways to do this would be by an attack on agriculture, specifically using foot and mouth disease, because it is so highly contagious, and because of the ripple effect on the economy.

"If you actually had a disease that was transmissible from animal to human, you'd also have the potential to spark mass panic," said Chalk. There was a slight indication of that occurring with the West Nile virus outbreak in New York and other parts of the East coast last year.

That outbreak was taken very seriously by the FBI, the U.S. Army, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia and other intelligence gathering agencies in the United States.

Brazil, according to one report, blamed sabotage for an outbreak of foot and mouth on its territory last year.

According to the British New Scientist magazine, "the U.S. is so worried about bio-terrorist attacks on its livestock industry it has just spent \$40 million on upgrading its secure research facilities for animal disease on Plum Island, New York."

The question of how easy it would be for potential agro-terrorists to attack livestock and agriculture was raised at a bio-terrorism conference held in St. Petersburg, Fl. last November that was organized by the CDC, Florida's Pinellas County, the University of South Florida and Battelle Memorial Institute.

But a better example would be the Rift Valley fever that hit Saudi Arabia, also last year, and that started out in animals but then spread to humans. "The issue of bio-terrorism has become more of a public health issue," said Barbara Reynolds, a spokesperson at the CDC.

Dr. Chalk said that, taking all those factors into account, "you've got economic impact, you've got destabilizing of the government, you've got social attacks and you've even got the possibility of mass scare."

"I actually think it would be far more likely than some of the nightmare scenarios that are painted of mass anthrax attacks on Manhattan for instance," said Chalk.

More Web sites



History of disasters & the principles of emergency management:

The Living Almanac of Disasters

<http://www.disasterium.com>

Disaster Research Center

<http://www.udel.edu/DRC/>

Internet Disaster Information Network

www.disaster.net

Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center

<http://hrrc.tamu.edu>

Weather Bug

<http://www.weatherbug.com>

Fire Weather

Spot forecast requests

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/wrspot/spotmon?site=mso>

Western Region Climate Center

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>

Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/SPI>

30 and 90 day outlooks

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products>

Wildland Fire Assessment System

www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/welcome.html

National Interagency Fire Center Daily Situation Report

<http://www.nifc.gov/news/sitreprt.pdf>



Scientists are eager to find a way of predicting earthquakes accurately.

They even have computer programs and sensors planted in dangerous areas to help in the investigation. Soviet scientists, however, are recommending that we keep an eye on the local snakes. They seem to react to geomagnetic vibrations, temperature variations and other factors that can be tracked. Some studies indicate that about one month before an earthquake, snakes will not only leave their nests, but completely leave the area.

Dr. William Fry, an authority on laughter, calls laughing "internal jogging." He claims that laughing, even when it isn't completely genuine, can be beneficial. Laughter doubles the heart rate for three or five minutes and provides a complete workout for the upper torso. It is said to reduce muscle tension, stimulate the nervous system, deaden pain and energize the brain.



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